

and a strong commitment to the mission of the National Park Service. We are sad to see her leaving the park, but we know that she will enjoy her retirement."

Mr. Speaker, I hope Congress will join me in expressing my thanks to Rovilla Ellis for her years of service to the Mesa Verde National Park and to wish her good luck in her retirement.

HONORING CENTRAL PRIMARY  
SCHOOL, BLOOMFIELD, NEW  
MEXICO

### HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 21, 2001*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to acclaim the accomplishments of one of New Mexico's top primary schools that shows the nation what it takes to be a leader in the educational field. I want to congratulate the Central Primary School in Bloomfield, New Mexico, for receiving the U.S. Department of Education's highest award, the 2000-2001 Blue Ribbon Schools Award for outstanding achievement in elementary education.

The Blue Ribbon Schools Award is presented to schools that excel in numerous fields, from strong leadership, clear visions for the future, and a strong sense of mission to the high quality of teaching and up-to-date curricula, and a commitment to share their knowledge with other area schools. This year, the Blue Ribbon Schools Award was only given to 264 elementary or primary schools nationwide. Mesa Elementary School in Clovis, New Mexico, was also presented with the Blue Ribbon Schools Award this year.

The Bloomfield school district is in the "Four Corners" area of the state, which is the only place in the U.S. where four states—New Mexico, Colorado, Utah and Arizona—meet. This area has an extremely diverse population, with the school-age children reflecting this diversity in the classroom. There, one-third of the students are Anglo, one-third of the students are Hispanic, and one-third of the students are Navajo.

The ability of Central Primary to continually strive for excellence in the classroom and the community is transferred to its students, who learn the important skills they will need to live successful lives.

Mr. Speaker, today I wish to acknowledge the outstanding achievements of the Central Primary School for its impressive achievements in the field of education. I thank the school for its commitment to the children of New Mexico.

BILL TWEET: LABOR TO NEIGHBOR  
AWARD WINNER

### HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 21, 2001*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bill Tweet, as he is honored by the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO with the Labor to Neighbor award.

Actively committed to escalating labor's involvement in the community, Bill Tweet, Busi-

ness Manager and Financial Secretary-Treasurer of Ironworkers Local 229, has consistently mobilized numerous volunteers for Labor to Neighbor campaigns. Through their annual Labor to Neighbor golf tournament, Bill and the Ironworkers have raised funds to educate union members about worker issues and political candidates sensitive to the needs of working families. Bill is also the President of the San Diego Building Trades Council.

"Bill has been a strong supporter of a united labor movement," says Mary Grillo, Executive Director of the Service Employees International Union, Local 2028. "He works hard to bring local unions together to build labor's political power."

My congratulations go to Bill Tweet for these significant contributions. I can personally attest to Bill's commitment, and believe him to be highly deserving of the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO, Labor to Neighbor award.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF WESLEY R. BAER ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT

### HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 21, 2001*

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Wesley R. Baer of Middle Point, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

Mr. Speaker, Wesley's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming cadet class of 2005. Attending one of our nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

Wesley brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of West Point cadets. While attending Lincolnview High School in Van Wert, Wesley attained a grade point average of 3.9 which places him fourteenth in a class of sixty-one. Wesley is a member of the Gold Honor Roll, National Honors Society, and the Leaders of the Future 4-H Club.

Outside the classroom, Wesley has distinguished himself as an excellent student-athlete. On the fields of competition, Wesley has earned letters in Varsity cross-country and basketball. Wesley has also been active in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the Lincolnview Spanish Club and the Lincolnview Science Club.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to pay tribute to Wesley R. Baer. Our service academies offer the finest education and military training available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Wesley will do very well during his career at West Point and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him well as he begins his service to the nation.

HONORING A FALLEN HERO, FIRE-FIGHTER ANTHONY (TONY) ALLAN CZAK

### HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 21, 2001*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, in July of 1976 a 900 acre wild fire ripped through the Battlement Creek area of Western Colorado. During the blaze, four brave forest service firefighters from different parts of the country were killed while trying to knock out one of the deadliest forest fires in recent memory. On July 21st of 2001, these four men will be honored at the opening of a memorial to be dedicated in their memory. I ask that Congress take a moment to honor these four men for giving their lives in the line of duty.

The four-day blaze which claimed the lives of three hotshot firefighters and one pilot was started by lightning, and took nearly 300 fire fighters to douse the blaze. Twenty-five year old Anthony (Tony) Allan Czak was in his fourth year working on the Mormon Lake hot-shot crew from Coconino National Forest in Arizona and was serving as the crew boss for the 76 season when he was killed by a "fast moving finger of fire".

Tony was born in Buffalo, New York and later moved to Phoenix, Arizona with his wife Janice to attend the University of Arizona. On the Morning of July 17, 1976, the crew was assigned to build a section of fire line to protect Federal lands belonging to the BLM. After they were finished, Tony sent the line crew out of the fire and into a safety zone. He then went back into the burn area to help the remaining three members with the burnout operations. Without warning, the fire took off and overran Tony and two other crewmembers. The fourth member of the crew survived.

Mr. Speaker, four men gave their lives protecting Federal land during the Battlement Creek fire in July of 1976. Anthony Czak and his crew will be honored by the citizens of the Battlement Creek area for their courage and bravery. I would ask that Congress honor them and thank them for their work.

Anthony's family should be proud of what he accomplished in his life and what he did for the people of Battlement Creek.

HONORING MESA ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL, CLOVIS, NEW MEXICO

### HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 21, 2001*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the New Mexico elementary school that continues to make leaps and bounds in the superior educational standards that we strive for in the national public schools system. Mesa Elementary School in Clovis, New Mexico, has an outstanding history of educational advancement, and today I wish to congratulate Mesa Elementary for receiving the U.S. Department of Education's 2000-2001 Blue Ribbon Schools Award for outstanding achievement in elementary education.

The Blue Ribbon Schools Award is presented to schools that excel in numerous